

## ANNEXATION.

## What Shall be Done With Hawaii.

The separation of Hawaii from the islands of the Australasian archipelago and its propinquity to the United States have kept it out of range of European influences, gradually extending over the former, and brought it within that of a nation free in great measure from the colonizing habit. Any other power enjoying half the opportunity of the United States in Hawaii would have annexed the islands long ago. The predominance of American influence in Hawaii has only resulted so far in preventing its absorption by any other power and in prolonging the life of a native rule, more absurdly feeble and shadowy than that of any Indian prince who enjoys a title of his revenues by the sufferance of an English commissioner.

Meanwhile the destiny of the islands has been working itself out through the operation of causes more constant and powerful than the forces of political intrigue or the promptings of national greed of aggrandizement. Modern colonial expansion does not proceed by the rude and vigorous methods of the past. It is a natural growth, rather than a forcible overrunning. Territory is not seized by force of arms in these more refined days. Nations do not annex islands. They "extend their sphere of influence" over them, and they do it through the slow and gradual operation of individual settlement and by the growth of trade. The merchant vessel is the forerunner of colonial expansion, and the peaceful trader the founder of colonial empire. The government remains in the background until its subjects or citizens have established commercial interests in foreign parts which warrant them in appealing for protection in the name of the commercial colony itself. This has been the mode of British colonial expansion since the congress of Vienna. It is that adopted by Germany and France in their late enterprises of colonization. It is the mode which suits with modern ideas of refinement. It is certainly the only one which would be tolerated in the United States.

This is what is going to happen sooner or later in Hawaii. Commercial occupation of the islands by Americans has already advanced far beyond the stage which other nations have considered as warranting annexation. Americans dominate the social life of the islands, control their commerce, own their land, direct their agriculture. Persons of American blood apparently control the native rulers through intrigue or favoritism, and persons of American sympathy, as well as descent, seem to control public opinion as well as the feeble mockery of a legislature. Hawaii is overripe for annexation. Every substantial interest in the islands would gain by it, and nobody would lose but a decayed dynasty and a few palace favorites. There is no fear of external opposition. European powers recognize the predominance of American commercial influence in the islands. The rules they have established for their own control and guidance in extending their respective spheres of influence mark the Hawaiian islands plainly as an ultimate possession of the United States. Probably the only European sentiment in relation to these islands is amazement that the United States has not annexed them long since. The only obstacles to annexation are our customary lethargy in colonial enterprise and the reluctance of the degenerate descendants of native chiefs to surrender their shadowy authority and substantial emoluments.

The last obstacle seems likely soon to be removed by an internal revolution, which shall destroy what remains of the power of the descendants of the chiefs and place political control of the islands in hands of those who already control its commerce and owns its lands. Hawaii has been plagued by a series of feeble revolutions in the last ten years. Most of these have come to nothing for want of unity of action among the parties opposed to the "royalists," as those who wish to maintain the authority of the descendants of chiefs are called. Recent events have strengthened and united the various parties in opposition, which are now endeavoring to force upon the Queen a Cabinet responsible to the majority of the popular legislative body. This, in itself, would be a revolution, since English parliamentary forms have been only nominally followed in Hawaii, and it would probably lead to a more complete revolution by giving the popular will an agent and executor in the Cabinet. Popular sentiment and commercial interest both look in the direction of union with the United States. When they shall find full expression in a truly responsible parliamentary government, the question is likely to be placed before this country in such a way that it will be impossible to postpone or evade it. We shall have to decide whether we want Hawaii or not. There ought to be no room for doubt or argument on this point. We are willing to pay millions of dollars for an inferior naval station in the Atlantic. We are not likely to hesitate at the chance to get the best naval station in the Pacific for the mere taking—Portland Oregonian.

## WORK OF CONGRESS.

[From our San Francisco Correspondent.]

The Senate has passed the quarantine bill without any opposition. The bill provides "that whenever it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the President that, by reason of the existence of cholera or other infectious or contagious diseases in a foreign country, there is serious danger of the introduction of the same into the United States, and that notwithstanding the quarantine defense the danger is so increased by the introduction of persons or property from such country, that the suspension of the right to introduce the same is demanded in the interest of the public health, the President shall have power to prohibit in whole or in part the introductions of persons and property from such countries or places as he shall designate, and for such a period of time as he may deem necessary."

An appropriation of \$1,000,000 is made to enable the President to carry the act into effect. Compensation is to be made for quarantine buildings and property received from States or municipalities. The act of March 3, 1879, establishing a National Board of Health, is repealed.

Senator Squire has introduced in the Senate a House bill authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to contract for one Berdan ironclad destroyer. At the request of Senator Squire the bill was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

The House has passed the Senate bill to retire Judge M. P. Deady of Portland, Oregon, as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court in Oregon.

The House has also passed a bill to provide for the punishment of offenses on the high seas. It provides that every person who is not one of a crew on board any vessel belonging in whole or in part to any citizen of the United States who shall, in defiance of the master, create any riot or disorder, or shall commit any breach of the peace, or shall hinder, obstruct or resist the crew in the performance or execution of any law, or any orders or commands of the master or officers of such vessels, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1000, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both. It places a similar penalty upon any passenger who shall inspire any member of a crew to disobey the law, or the orders of the master, and forbids all crews to combine in revolt or mutiny, or to resist orders.

The Treasury Department wants San Francisco builders to bid on two swift launches for use in suppressing opium smuggling on Puget Sound. Each launch is to be fifty feet long with quarters for two officers and four men, and to cost about \$5000 each laid down.

The friends of the Chinese are preparing to make an assault on the exclusion law, but there is no chance for the repeal of the Geary law at this session, although the appropriation to enforce it might be cut out.

The House has promptly passed the bill providing for the election of United States Senators by the direct vote of the people. The Republicans opposed the measure but were finally forced to surrender.

A bill has been introduced in the House to suspend during the first year of each Presidential term all civil-service laws in so far as they restrict or interfere with the free exercise by the President or heads of departments the power to remove or appoint officers or employees of the government. The preamble to the bill says that no Administration can fully and satisfactorily carry its policies into execution if a large portion of the subordinate officers are hostile to such policies.

## A THOUSAND LIVES LOST.

## Frightful Fire at a Chinese Fete.

In connection with the disastrous fire which occurred in the Kam Li bazaar at Ko Iu Hsien (near Canton) and which was briefly reported in our issue of the 3d instant, says the Hongkong Press of December 14th last, further particulars which have now reached us show that the calamity was a fearful one, involving the loss of over a thousand lives. On the night before the fire took place a band of brigands, after having despoiled a number of family houses, tried to raid an exhibition which was to be held in honor of the Tin Hau Goddess, and in which there were many valuable decorations. Soldiers who were engaged on guard opened fire on the robbers and a fight ensued. The result was that one of the marauders was captured while the rest made good their escape. When all was over the villagers thought that peace had been restored and entertained no fear that the robbers would return. They

enjoyed the entertainment as usual, but on the following night suddenly several places on the roof of a temporary theatre, which formed one part of the amusements, were seen on fire. The flames spread rapidly, and in a short space of time bamboos and beams were falling down from the roof. Some of the audience were knocked down by the flaming rafters and badly burned before they could escape. Those who got out could not go home on account of the solid masses of people rushing in the streets, and they took refuge in a neighboring temple. This at last caught fire also, and the scene then was an awful one. The door did not afford a sufficient means of egress for the mass of people, and large numbers were roasted alive. Altogether over one thousand lives were lost, including those who were burned in the theatre. The dead bodies being so many and as few of them have been identified by their relatives and removed, they now present a most offensive sight. The neighborhood is literally strewn with them. It is reported that 700 coffins have been sent by the charitable institutions at Canton, Fatsan and Sainan in order to have the remains removed and buried. A rich man has also promised to contribute largely to the expenses of this work. The number of houses reduced to ashes is about 280.

## PITCAIRN'S ISLAND.

The British bark Earl of Dunraven on the passage home from Portland to the United Kingdom last year made a call at Pitcairn's Island. The following extract from a letter, written by Captain Foreman of the bark to a friend out in San Francisco, gives an interesting account of his visit and his reception by the descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty:

"I called at Pitcairn, as intended, and landed my mails and cargo. It was a nasty day, blowing strong from the northwest, and squally, with a big lump of a sea on. We got off the island at 10 A. M. I was afraid the sea was too heavy for the boats to come off, but I was wrong for they did come. They were jumping half out of the water, and when they came alongside they were half full of water, and everybody on board was soaked to the skin. I scarcely thought the ladies would come off, but again I was mistaken, as the governor's eldest daughter and two Miss Youngs came off. They were easiest most of the time, and would have been much more comfortable on shore. I could not pay them the same attention I would have liked, as I had to look after the ship and try and keep as near the island as I could. They stayed on board about six hours.

"We got everything landed nicely and the poor people were just delighted. They never had so much and so many necessary things at one time, and were extremely thankful to all who had so kindly sent things. When we left they fairly loaded us with curios, fruits, fowls, etc., till I was almost ashamed to take them. I took some oranges to England with me, and distributed them among friends, who said they were the finest they had ever tasted, even after being 100 days on board ship. The captain of a British man-of-war had read the accounts of my visit while he was at Honolulu, and, being bound to Valparaiso, called at Pitcairn, on his way, to verify my statements, which, I am pleased to say, he found correct. We took the measurement of their boats, etc., and reported it to our government, so they may in time (the British government is never in a great hurry) get new ones.

"After leaving Pitcairn we got along all right till we got to Cape Horn. There we had a little dirty weather for a few days. In one gale we lay for about four hours with the combings of the main hatch in the water. She could not lift herself on account of the weight of water on the lee side. I was afraid she would start the lee bulwarks, but she came out of it all right. We had only a lower main top sail set at the time. We had bitterly cold weather off the Horn for over a week, with several heavy snowstorms, but saw no ice, though several of the ships did. After getting around the corner we went along all right and had a fair run home."—Am. Ex.

PANAMA, January 13.—The captain of the Spanish sloop Juana, which arrived at Colon this morning, says that he encountered a terrible hurricane in the Caribbean sea. The Juana left the Isla de Virgus on November 26th for Mayaguez, Porto Rico. She had twenty-six souls aboard. She was blown completely out of her course by the storm and touched at Old Providence a week ago. During the voyage eight of the crew were swept overboard by big waves and perished.

## PIRATE OR POACHER.

## The Hawaiian Steamer Alexander to Call Here.

The Hawaiian steamer Alexander, fitted out at Mission pier 1 for a sealing and trading cruise, is just now an object of much curiosity, says the San Francisco Chronicle. The steamer is coaling at present, and it is expected that she will leave in a few days. Just where the steamer is going the projectors decline to say, but there are enough rumors flying about to make her destination any place on the face of the navigable globe.

It is claimed by those who think they know that the steamer is going on a half-piratical and regular freebooting cruise, with the intention of raiding the Copper island seal rookeries, and trading with Alaska natives and Russians, whisky, or anything else that may be handy, for furs. Whether there is anything in these reports remains to be seen.

One thing about the vessel and those interested in the venture is that a great deal of money is being spent by some one. The Pacific Trading Company, incorporated with a capital stock of \$250,000,000, has been formed and ostensibly is the projector of the enterprise. The two principal men in the company are L. R. Fulda and A. P. Lorentzen. The latter is the credited agent of Herman Liebes, the furrier, who is largely interested in the North American Commercial Company.

The captain of the Alexander is no less a personage than Alexander McLean, one of the most daring and skillful sealers that ever sailed out of any port. He is a native of New Brunswick, about 40 years of age, and a handsome man. A long, heavy, reddish mustache gives him a fierce appearance.

While in command of the sealing schooner James Hamilton Lewis a year and a half ago the vessel was seized by the Russian cruiser Z biaka. When McLean found he could not run away from the cruiser he decided on a bold plan, he ran the Z biaka down. The bowsprit of the schooner struck the iron cruiser amidships and knocked a good-sized hole in her. The intention was to sink the Russian cruiser. When he found that he had failed, McLean had the American flag nailed to the mast-head of the Lewis, and the Russians had to tear it down when they hoisted their colors.

The Alexander will take away from here sixteen seal-hunters and an extra large crew. The hunters are asking \$300 advance before they start. The cost of fitting out the steamer will not be much less than \$50,000.

Among most of those who are interested in sealing the cruise of the Alexander is not looked upon in a very pleasant light. "Why should Liebes, through an agent, fit out the Alexander for a wholesale slaughter of seals?" asked an owner of a couple of small schooners. "The Alexander was under the Russian flag when she was purchased by Lorentzen a month ago, immediately it was changed to the Hawaiian. That was queer. If the steamer was to be used in legitimate work there was no need for a change of colors. The Hawaiian flag is nobody's colors, and is just as good for a pirate as a sealer. There is something very strange about the Alexander's mission, and she will bear watching. From here it is reported she will go to Honolulu, and start from there on her cruise."

## RUNAWAY HUSBAND.

## Mrs. C. H. Poole Anxious to Learn the Whereabouts of Her Husband.

Mrs. Alice S. Poole of San Diego is anxious to learn the whereabouts of her husband, C. H. Poole, who cruelly deserted her some weeks ago says the Los Angeles Times. Poole has figured in several disgraceful affairs in San Diego, finally leaving that place and going to the Sandwich Islands, where he remained some months. He finally induced his wife to mortgage her home in San Diego and send him money to return to this State, locating in this city, where he took charge of a weekly paper on the East Side. Mrs. Poole joined her husband here, and they lived together for several months. He finally sent her to visit her relatives in San Diego, when he collected what money he could and departed for other fields, leaving his wife absolutely penniless and in debt, he having failed to pay off the mortgage on the home place in San Diego. To add to the deserted wife's distress, she is soon to become a mother.

Poole's whole record is bad. A few years ago he published a paper in Denver, called the Petrol, a sheet the authorities compelled him to suppress owing to its obscenity, it being devoted entirely to the interests of sporting people of both sexes. He is a brother of Sam Poole, the murderer, who escaped some years ago from the Nebraska State Prison.

Also a brother of the notorious gambler, Bill Poole. Anyone knowing the address of C. H. Poole will confer a favor on Mrs. Poole by sending the same to No. 1435 Ninth street, San Diego. Poole is 38 years old, five feet nine inches tall, brown eyes, brown eyebrows, sandy hair, quite thin and short, square broad shoulders, sandy mustache, always faultlessly curled, large prominent nose, short upper lip, walks very erect and straight. Wears tan colored overcoat and black clothes, sleeve-buttons with initial "P" in center, and plain gold band ring on third finger of left hand.

[A man answering to the above description spent several months in this city last summer. During his stay a woman arrived here who was evidently his wife. She remained here but one week, and then left for San Francisco without her husband, who followed her on the next vessel. Since then nothing has been heard of him.]

## AMERICAN POLITICS.

[From our own S. F. Correspondent.]

Before this item reaches Honolulu, Stephen M. White of Los Angeles will have been elected United States Senator from California. One ballot has been taken and White needs only one more vote to secure the prize. He is the youngest senator ever sent from this state and is a Native Son.

In New York the Tammany crowd has defied Cleveland and in caucus nominated T. J. Murphy Jr. for United States Senator. Whether they will elect him or not remains to be seen. Murphy's friends declare that they are not in an alliance with Hill, and that Murphy in Congress would not lie awake nights to dig up trouble for the President.

In Minnesota there is a great probability that Senator Davis will be defeated for re-election. It is declared by his friends that his defeat will be due to the use of money.

Kansas has had a hot time trying to organize a Legislature, both parties running sideshows owing to the influence of the Populists. The Republicans and Democrats are said to have combined against the enemy and it is probable that Kansas will elect a Democratic Senator.

A Washington dispatch says that Cleveland is very anxious about the silver situation. He is reported to have said to a friend that another year of the Sherman law would drive the country into the hoarding of gold and a financial panic. He spoke of the recent large shipments of gold to Europe, of the eagerness of European Governments to buy all the gold they could get their hands on, and the sale of American securities in England for the purchase of gold.

Let big failures, he said, start a wave of timidity and you will see prudent people everywhere hoarding gold and unloading silver. The longer the Sherman law continues in force the greater the danger.

Mr. Cleveland was asked how far he would be willing to go in the direction of a compromise, and a specific inquiry was made if he would be content with the old Bland law of 1878. His reply was: "Only in case of necessity. Between the Bland law and the Sherman law I prefer the former; but we ought not to be forced to such an alternative." It is known here that Mr. Cleveland's anxiety over the currency situation has, for the time being at least, overshadowed everything else in his mind. He is satisfied nothing can be accomplished in this Congress, and that delay is dangerous. Therefore he has again taken into consideration a suggestion that a special session of the new Congress be called in April or May.

Governor Markham, of this State, has got himself disliked by Republicans by proposing to appoint Paris Kilburn, of Monterey, and Dan Cole, of Sierra, as Harbor Commissioners. The former now has a Government office, and is a chronic place-hunter. The merchants of San Francisco are hostile over the matter, and demand that the appointees be citizens of this city who understand the needs of commerce.

A food crank has arisen, who says that the banana is the universal food and clothing of the human race. He claims that before long bread, muffins, porridge, soup, pies, beer and sausages will be made out of bananas. Besides that, an indelible ink can be made out of the skin, and a beautiful cloth can be made out of the fibre.

Marshal W. G. Ashley does not intend to make any sweeping changes in his department at present. In a few days he will commence an aggressive war on the che fa and Chinese lottery bands.

## THE BRIEF HISTORY.

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The formation of the regular army is going along nicely. Col. Soper has not decided about the uniform for the officers and men as yet, and for the present fatigue dress will be worn. The Interior office has been assigned as its military headquarters.

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